

the evening of the 24th, from a reduction of quantity, the disease increased in severity: and the favourable change that occurred on the 27th was not in consequence of such cause; because it will be observed, on tracing the case to the evening of the 30th, that so far from the disease having run its course, it was greatly aggravated by the use of quinine.

Opium possesses the power of reducing the secretion of the kidneys when in an over-excited state, by removing the cause of excitement; but it exercised no influence upon their function in the early part of this case. Increased secretion of urine is a symptom of delirium tremens; and so long as the opium did not remove the cause, the renal secretion was unabated. One property of ammonia is, to augment in some degree the functional action of these organs, so that their change to a reduced action can only be attributed to the opium in subduing the morbid condition of the system. But without the assistance of ammonia in this instance, the opium could not have been administered in sufficient quantity, to have brought about this change, and by its modifying influence, the reduction of urine was effected.

The influence of opium upon the mucous membrane of the urethra when narcotism is induced, is clearly illustrated in the present instance. During the first four days of treatment the patient was fully under the operation of this drug, and without any other means, the gonorrhœal discharge was arrested, and a perfect cure was the result.

In the progress of treatment, castor oil was employed to relieve the bowels, which were torpid throughout the whole course, and with entire satisfaction. It was administered three times, when the system was under the influence of large doses of opium, and its operation was quite as prompt as under ordinary circumstances. I am inclined to believe that opium has but little power over the cathartic property of this drug.

ART. X.—*Fungus Hæmatodes of the Bladder.* By EMERY BISSELL,
M. D., of Norwalk, Ct.

I was summoned on the night of the 7th of June, 1842, to visit D. S. B. of this borough, in consultation with his family physician, on account of a sudden and profuse discharge of blood from the bladder, attended with most excruciating pain, evinced by his piercing cries and groans. He had already evacuated a pint or more of blood, and was still voiding it in considerable quantities, both in a fluid and coagulated state, at intervals of only a few minutes. In the course of the night he voided not less than three pints. He stated that the first indications of the disease, which he had ever felt or no-

ticed were sometime in the month of April previous; at this time, he passed a small quantity of blood along with his urine, not attended or preceded by any pain or uneasiness, and so far as he knew without any appreciable cause. This attack subsided in a day or two, and he thought no more of it, until the present time. This recurrence of the complaint in its more aggravated form was induced by a long ride in a wagon on a hot day; after a day or two, he was now so far relieved as to be able to attend partially to his ordinary business, for a few days, when he was again confined by a renewed attack, and never again left his house, as the case was attended by his family physician. I did not see him after the time above mentioned, until January 7th, 1843. During this interval of seven months, I found that himself and friends had regarded his case as an ordinary case of gravel, and for this, he had taken great quantities of a nostrum, patented and sold by a physician in the city of New York, with whom he had been in regular correspondence, and to whom his urine was sent weekly for inspection. By him, he was assured most unequivocally, that his disease was what he termed "phosphatic gravel," and that he would most certainly recover if he would but persevere in the use of the medicine long enough. During this period I found he had suffered greatly from pain in discharging the contents of the bladder, which were blood in considerable quantities both fluid and coagulated mixed with urine, and a sort of carbonaceous matter, similar in appearance to what lampblack or very finely levigated charcoal would be, when mixed up into a very stiff paste with some kind of glutinous liquid. The patient's habits were strictly temperate. From his description of symptoms, I found many of the indications of the presence of stone, tumour or other foreign body in the cavity of the bladder; but no evidences whatever of disease of the kidneys or any other organ, save the bladder. All his sufferings appeared to have their origin in the mechanical irritation of some foreign substance. On a closer inspection a tumour above the pelvis was evident, and on introducing the finger into the rectum, it encountered a solid body apparently filling the whole cavity of the pelvis and to the touch, seemingly as large as the vertex of a child's head, when fully engaged in the superior strait of the pelvis. The rectum sustained very considerable compression, and the stools were small, flattened and passed with difficulty. His sufferings at this time were indescribable, and apparently as severe as human nature is capable of enduring. The intervals of ease were of short duration, as the calls to evacuate the bladder were almost incessant. I frankly informed him that his case admitted of no more than a temporary relief from opiates, and advised the abandonment of all other medicine. This he seemed somewhat unwilling to do, and yet clung to the belief of his disease being gravel, and still half cherished the vain hope of recovery from the nostrum of which he had taken enormous quantities, and which was evidently little else than a very pure soap. In this condition, he lingered until the 20th of March, with no relief except a partial mitigation of pain from the use of opium in large and frequent doses.

Nature seemed evidently to yield to the effects of mere physical suffering, and death came to him as a welcome messenger, at the age of sixty-seven.

Autopsy.—The body was opened fifteen hours after death. All the viscera of the abdomen, also the kidneys, were perfectly healthy in appearance. Not the least vestige of disease could be discovered in any part except the bladder, which was occupied by an enormous tumour of that kind termed "*fungus hæmatodes*." By this the whole cavity of the bladder was filled, except that about two ounces of semi-coagulated blood were found in its upper portion: not even a spoonful of urine could be seen. The distension of the bladder was of course in those directions where there was the least resistance, *i. e.* upwards into the cavity of the abdomen, and downwards into the perineum, giving it a form nearly ovate; its length being about nine inches, and its transverse diameter four or four and a half. So entirely was it filled with the tumour, that it was difficult to conceive how even the smallest quantity of urine could have been accumulated. This fungous mass had its origin near the neck of the bladder, posteriorly, to which it adhered firmly, seeming in fact to make a part of its very structure; its texture was not so firm but it could be pulled apart and torn to pieces with the fingers. Its weight, which I had not the means of ascertaining with precision, I should judge to be two and a half or three pounds. For the production of this unusual disease, in this instance, it is impossible to assign any cause whatever, and its occurrence in one of the healthiest systems I have ever seen examined during a professional life of thirty years, is one of those dark mysteries of our profession, on which not even a ray of light is shed by any thing yet discovered.

NORWALK, Nov. 28th, 1843.

Appendix to Dr. T. R. Beck's paper on poisoning by Sulphate of Potash.

I AM enabled through the kindness of Dr. Hays, to add, that on dissection, the female Haynes was found not to be pregnant, and that she died of sanguineous apoplexy and inflammation of the stomach. Her husband was indicted for wilful murder.

Mr. Mowbray (in the Medical Gazette) after quoting the French cases, which I have noticed, and which are given in detail in the Memoir of Bayard and Chevallier, adds the following, which came under his own observation. "Symptoms resembling those occasioned by corrosive poisons supervened where a dose of four drachms of this salt had been administered to the wife of a friend immediately after her confinement." In a subsequent communication, this gentleman suggests the possibility that the injurious effects of sulphate of potash are solely caused by spiculæ of undissolved salt, and hence that these occur when it is taken alone in large doses.—*London Medical Gazette*, October, 1843.